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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Colby

SUBJECT : Response to [ ] Proposal -- Re Planning for  
 Combined Computer System for Imagery-Related Data  
 at NPIC and DIA

1. The proposed reply to [ ] reflects the views of Director, NPIC; Chairman, COMIREX; and Acting Chairman, IHC. I concur.

2. The NPIC and DIA systems should be compatible, and a study should be made of how to accomplish this. The alternative of a combined system should be weighed against separate interconnected systems. In either event, this is a long-term development.

--A combined system would raise complex technical problems, some of which have not been adequately resolved by the computer industry.

--The approach of interconnecting systems has been well documented and offers potential economies.

3. [ ] letter points to certain apparent similarities between NPIC and DIA imagery-related automated tasks. There are also important dissimilarities. NPIC's system is dedicated to one specific application, whereas DIA must provide for many applications for varied users. These considerations affect system design.

4. As a practical matter, the NPIC system is already contracted for and work is underway. NPIC must continue its present course in order to meet the October 1976 deadline for the collection program. Design decisions already taken will constrain NPIC's flexibility for several years, during which its initial system is being established. At this time, it appears that DIA may be capable of somewhat more flexibility than NPIC.

5. The proposed ad hoc study group would draw considerably on interagency fact-finding studies now underway in COMIREX.

[ ]

Daniel O. Graham  
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